

Wycombe 1 Reading 2

LUCKY Reading are through to the Third Round thanks to two scrambled goals by leading striker Robin Friday in the first half.

But Wycombe deserved a reply for mounting such a fierce fight-back after the break.

Schoolmaster Ian Pearson pulled one goal back with an 18-yard drive that caught Reading goalkeeper Death on the wrong foot.

Then, with ten seconds of injury time remaining, Pearson slammed in a close range shot that Death just finger-tipped against an upright — and it ran clear.

Reading manager Charlie Hurley said: "Someone up there surely loves me. We had it all in the first half but Wycombe were a different side in the second."

Wycombe boss Ted Powell added: "Reading didn't impress me. The pitch brought us down to their level."

Reading were set fair when Friday hit home a cross from Murray as Wycombe appealed in vain for hands.

Friday scored again when Wycombe goalkeeper Maskell failed to hold a hard, low cross from Murray.

Teacher Pearson is tops

By STAN VICKERY
Wycombe W 1, Reading 2

SCHOOLTEACHER Ian Pearson taught the Reading defence a lesson in the 68th minute but his goal wasn't sufficient to give Wycombe the reward they so richly deserved.

It should have been easy for the Third Division side after striker Robin Friday had put them two up in half an hour but Wycombe refused to lie down.

Only a brilliant display by keeper Steve Death frustrated Wycombe's all-out second half attack and afterwards manager Ted Powell said: "I wasn't particularly impressed by Reading.

"We lost because of two early defensive errors—after that there was only one team in it."

MoM: Steve Death
(Reading).

READING OWE IT TO ROBIN

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ISTHMIAN LEAGUE
Wycombe were desperately unlucky not to earn a replay of this FA Cup second-round tie, especially when 68th-minute scorer Ian Pearson also hit a post in the last minute.

Reading certainly didn't impress Wycombe manager Ted Powell, who said: "They didn't win the match—we lost it by giving them two goals."

Reading sealed victory with goals from £60,000 transfer-listed striker Robin Friday in the fifth and 32nd minutes.